

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner formulated the same rejections made in a previous non-final action, rejecting claims 1-50. All claims are still believed to be allowable in their present form, and their reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 9, 14, 34 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Examiner appears to assert that the term “hypertext transfer protocol server” would not be understood by one skilled in the art. Applicants disagree, and submit that all qualified practitioners operating in the field of web servers, and similar devices would understand the scope of this term. Indeed, Applicants do not object to the Examiner’s interpretation of the term to relate to, at least in some embodiments, a web server that provides access to web pages. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and indicate the allowability of the claims on this basis.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner renewed the rejections formulated in the previous Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of claims 1-6, 10, 16-17, 24, 26-31, 41-42, 45 and 49 in view of Marsh. Applicants note that of these claims, only claims 1 and 26 are independent. Claims 1 and 26 are believed to be clearly allowable over Marsh as Marsh cannot possibly anticipate the claims in their present form.

Both in formulating the rejection, and in the response to arguments section of the Office Action (see page 26), the Examiner appears to make certain comparisons between the disclosure of Marsh and the subject matter recited in the present claims. In particular, three items are specifically at issue. The claims recite an “asset management server component” that the Examiner appears to equate to the “data server 130” of Marsh. Secondly, the Examiner appears to equate the recited “remote client computer system” to

the “transmission device” of Marsh. Finally, the Examiner appears to equate the recited “interrogation device” to a “computing device” of Marsh. That is, the following comparisons are made by the Examiner both in formulating the rejection and in the response to arguments section of the Office Action:

<u>Recited component</u>	<u>Component of Marsh</u>
asset management server component	data server 130
remote client computer system	transmission device (no ref. no.)
interrogation device	computing device (no ref. no.)

The Examiner’s analysis appears, however, to be fundamentally flawed. In particular, the Marsh disclosure identifies the “computing device” as part of a field control device 110. *See, e.g.*, Marsh, paragraph 21. The “transmission device” of Marsh, which is referred to in one single passage in paragraph 21 of the reference, is said to be “advantageously connected” to the computing device, apparently within the field control device 110. No other description or qualification is made in Marsh of the structures or functions of the “transmission device” and the “computing device”. It would appear from Marsh that the two devices are provided together and are, at the very least, inseparable.

Claims 1 and 26, on the other hand, require that the recited remote client computer system and the recited interrogation device be *separate*. Accordingly, even if the Examiner’s analogies are accepted, which Applicants do not do, by the very disclosure provided in Marsh, the Marsh “transmission device” and “computing device” do not meet the claim requirement of being of a separate nature and communicating with one another.

At least on this basis, Marsh cannot anticipate the pending claims.
Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore requested.

Other claims are believed to be clearly allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 1 and 26.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

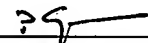
The rejections of dependent claims based upon a hypothetical combination of Marsh with secondary references are traversed, as no other reference of record obviates the deficiencies of Marsh discussed above.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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